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DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed 3/18/05 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christine O'Day on 5/23/05.

Cancel claims 16 and 17

Amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating oxytocin secretion comprising administering to a patient in need of oxytocin ~~oxytoxin~~ secretion regulation, an effective amount of an isolated and purified oxytocin secretion regulator, comprising a ligand peptide, or salt thereof, for a G protein-coupled receptor protein, phGR3, wherein the ligand peptide, or salt thereof, for a G protein-coupled receptor protein is a polypeptide, or an amide or an ester or a salt thereof, comprising containing an amino acid sequence that has the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 44, wherein the oxytocin secretion regulator is an oxytocin secretion promoter.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 13 and 15 allowed.

Chayka 3/18/05
CLM

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Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating oxytocin secretion comprising administering to a patient in need of oxytoxin secretion regulation, an effective amount of an isolated and purified oxytocin secretion regulator, comprising a ligand peptide, or salt thereof, for a G protein-coupled receptor protein, phGR3, wherein the ligand peptide, or salt thereof, for a G protein-coupled receptor protein is a polypeptide, or an amide or an ester or a salt thereof, containing an amino acid sequence that has at least 90% homology to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 44.

14. (Cancelled) The method of claim 13, wherein the ligand peptide has an amino acid sequence that has at least 95 % identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 44.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 44 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, 18, and 32.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the isolated and purified oxytocin secretion regulator is an oxytocin secretion promoter.

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17. (New) A method for screening compounds or their salts that alter the binding properties between the ligand polypeptides or their salts, for a G protein-coupled receptor protein, phGR3 and receptor proteins or their salts, which is characterized by assaying the binding of the ligand to the receptor protein or the cell stimulating activity, and comparing:

- (i) binding properties where contact is brought about between receptor proteins or their salts and the ligand polypeptides or their salts; and
- (ii) binding properties where contact is brought about between receptor proteins or their salts and the ligand polypeptides or their salts and reagent compound.